
March 2011

East Minnehaha Neighborhood Park

Answers to Common Questions

When will construction start?

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2012, if funding is available. Park construction typically takes 4-6 months to complete.

How is this project being paid for?

Funding to design and construct this park may come from:

- Park impact fees, which are paid by new housing developers,
- Real estate excise taxes, which are paid whenever homes are sold, and
- Greater Clark Parks District property taxes.

These three funding sources are dedicated to parks and cannot be used for other purposes, like police or roads. Maintenance will also be paid for with property taxes collected by the Greater Clark Parks District (see www.clarkparks.org), which is a junior taxing district approved by voters in the unincorporated urban area of Clark County in 2005.

Will there be a parking lot and restrooms?

No. Neighborhood parks are designed for people living in adjacent neighborhoods to walk or ride their bike to, not drive. They are not meant to be “destination” parks that attract visitors from outside the immediate neighborhood. As a result, funding to build a parking lot or restrooms is not included in this park’s budget.

Won't the park development create parking and traffic problems?

Parking and increased traffic has not been a problem at most of the 20 neighborhood parks the county has built since 2005. The only exceptions have been parks with very large open lawn areas that attract organized sports groups, and parks with skateboarding/BMX “spots” that attract users from outside the neighborhood. Neither of these features is proposed at this park.

A traffic study indicates that, at most, two cars may be parked on NE 69th Street at any given time during the park’s operating hours. This is a public road and cars are legally allowed to park on it

unless they create a safety hazard or are completely blocking residents' driveways, in which case the [Clark County Sheriff's Office](#) may be contacted.

Will the neighborhood west of the park have access to the park?

In order to provide a direct access point from the NE 69th Street cul-de-sac west of the park, the county would have to buy easements through two adjacent private properties. There is no additional funding identified in the project budget for this purpose, so the county is not pursuing this option. Additionally, the Bonneville Power Administration's property west of the park is identified as a wetland, and the county cannot build a trail through it without costly environmental impacts. Neighbors living west of the park will still be able to access the park by walking or bicycling to the park entrance proposed from NE 63rd Street.

What will happen to the trees and wetland in the park?

The county recognizes the value the existing trees bring to the park and plan to design the park around them as much as possible. Existing trees will also be pruned and cleaned up, and dead or diseased trees will be removed. The county is proposing to build a boardwalk across the wetland in order to connect the two sides of the park. Beyond this proposed feature, the wetland will be preserved and potentially enhanced with native plantings in the future.

Will the park property be fenced?

The park property will be fenced, with the exception of the wetland underneath the power lines. The county cannot put fencing through the wetland without creating costly environmental impacts and restricting the movement of wildlife that live in the wetland.

Will the public have access to the electrical towers?

The two closest electrical towers are located outside the park property. The county will not encourage public access to these towers beyond what is already currently available in this power corridor. Bonneville Power Administration has no plans to build any additional towers within the park.

Will adjacent properties be screened from the park?

The county can add shrubs or small trees along the park's property line to help screen adjacent homes, *if neighbors desire*. Interested property owners should contact the project manager to request these plantings no later than May 2011.

Will dogs be allowed in the park?

Leashed dogs will be allowed in the park after it's developed. The Clark County Code prohibits off-leash use in parks unless it has been officially designated as an off-leash area. The county does not locate off-leash dog parks inside neighborhood parks because they attract visitors from outside the neighborhood who will park on local roads, something many neighbors have specifically requested be avoided. An off-leash dog park is currently available at Hockinson Meadows Community Park, which is about four miles east of this park (www.clarkparks.org/projects/hockinson.htm).

Will the Sheriff's Office patrol this park on a regular basis?

Clark County Sheriff's Office deputies usually visit public parks only when someone calls 9-1-1 to report a problem or crime in progress. If they are able to drive by the park on the way to or from another assignment, they will scan the park from their vehicles. They will not get out and walk through the park unless they suspect an illegal activity is occurring.

It is important for neighbors and park visitors to keep an eye on the park and report any illegal activities immediately by calling 9-1-1 or by calling the East Precinct directly at (360) 397-6079. The Sheriff's Office cannot respond to emerging or recurring problems if no one reports them.

Who will maintain the park after it's built?

After construction is complete, Clark County Public Works will visit the park at least once a week in the winter and potentially up to seven days a week in the summer, when park use increases, to perform regular maintenance. Park maintenance includes mowing, weed removal, tree and plant care, trash removal, and equipment repairs.

Can I install a gate from my yard into the park?

Neighbors who share a property line with the park may pay to have a gate installed in the park's chain link fence *after construction is completed*. Interested neighbors must contact Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation in advance to request a gate agreement. For more information, call Brian Potter at (360) 487-8323.

How can I get more information about this project?

Please visit the project Web page at: www.clarkparks.org/projects/eastminnehaha.htm.

Or contact:

Don Andrews, Project Manager

Clark County Public Works

Telephone: 360-397-6118 ext. 4362

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